

Food processing industries at Rohodu in Shimla

† 125. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up food processing industry at Rohodu, in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh, on priority basis so that apple growers may get maximum benefit out of it;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when Government would take action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government does not directly set up food processing industries in any State. The Department of Food Processing Industries is implementing various Plan Schemes which envisage provision of financial assistance to cooperatives, non-governmental organizations, public sector undertakings, private sector industries, Research and Development Institutions etc. for development of the processed food sector. These Schemes are project-oriented and not State/area specific.

Cyclone, flood and drought in Orissa

126. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land and cost of crops damaged in Orissa due to supercyclone, flood and the recent drought during the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) whether all farmers got the crop in insurance claims;

(c) the area of non-irrigated cultivated land available in Orissa; and

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government would take any permanent measures to face drought and famine like situation in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) As per information available from the Government of Orissa, Kharif crop in 21 lakh ha. was affected by the super-cyclone and 1.53 lakh ha. cropped area was reportedly affected by floods of July-August, 1999. 9.03 lakh cropped area in Kharif has been reportedly affected by current year's drought.

(b) No details are maintained.

(c) According to the State Government, 22.63 lakh ha. and 10.95 lakh ha. of area under Kharif and Rabi cultivation have irrigation potential.

(d) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to take necessary measures. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Government. A number of schemes are being implemented by the concerned Ministries-Departments which have components of disaster mitigation.

Uniform policy for declaring national calamity

127. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government would not declare Orissa supercyclone as national calamity which Prime Minister has already declared Gujarat earthquake as national calamity; and

(b) whether Government would consider to bring a legislation to frame a uniform policy for declaring national calamity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) There is no provision legal or executive for declaring any natural calamity as a national calamity. In the recent earthquake in Gujarat and earlier in the case of super-cyclone in Orissa, the Central and the State Governments have undertaken emergency operations for rescue and